

Docket No. 11440RRUS02U

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MERGING ACCOUNTING RECORDS TO
MINIMIZE OVERHEAD**

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A method and apparatus for merging accounting records to minimize overhead is provided. The method and apparatus accumulate accounting information for data transmissions between a wireless communication device and a host on a data network. The method and apparatus are capable of accumulating accounting information for short data bursts and for active traffic channel transmissions such that an accounting messages is sent to an accounting server only when transitions from short data burst transmission or active traffic channel transmission to another state are encountered. Thus, accounting information for a plurality of sequential short data bursts and/or active traffic channel transmissions are accumulated. This reduces the number of accounting messages sent to an accounting server and eliminates race conditions that may be encountered by sequential short data bursts.

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